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What Does This Crisis Demand of Each of Us?

Moderator, **GEORGE V. DENNY, JR.**

Speakers

PAUL H. DOUGLAS

ARTHUR GOLDBERG

MARION FOLSOM

Interrogators

SYLVIA F. PORTER

MERRYLE STANLEY RUKEYSER

LEO M. CHERNE



THE LISTENER TALKS BACK

on

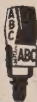
**"How Should the Free Nations Deal
With Present Aggression?"**

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Town Meeting

VOL. 16 No. 34



What Does This Crisis Demand of Each of Us?

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THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

PAUL HOWARD DOUGLAS—U. S. Senator from Illinois, Member of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee. After graduating from Bowdoin College in 1913, he took graduate work at Columbia University. He has been a member of the faculty of the University of Chicago since 1920.

Senator Douglas spent two years overseas during World War II, in service with the First Marine Division. He is the author of a number of books on industrial economics and is a frequent contributor to journals and reviews.

MARION BAYARD FOLSOM — The Treasurer of the Eastman Kodak Company and Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development. After his graduation from the University of Georgia (A. M., 1912), he attended Harvard University. Mr. Folsom has been with the Eastman Kodak Company since 1914. He has served in an advisory capacity on numerous commissions and is the author of many articles on social insurance, industrial relations, and business subjects.

ARTHUR GOLDBERG—Mr. Goldberg is General Counsel to the C. I. O.

The Interrogators

LEO M. CHERNE—Executive Secretary of the Research Institute of America.

SYLVIA F. PORTER—Financial editor of the *New York Post*.

MERRYLE STANLEY RUKEYSER—Syndicated economic columnist for the International News Service.

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What Does This Crisis Demand of Each of Us?

Moderator Denny:

Good evening, neighbors. Again, this crisis has caused us to postpone the program originally scheduled with Mrs. Wilma Soss and Bennett Cerf in order that we might discuss our individual responsibilities at this crucial hour. In his proclamation of the national emergency, President Truman called on every person and every community to make, with a spirit of neighborliness, whatever sacrifices are necessary for the welfare of the Nation.

We've invited three outstanding leaders and a distinguished panel of experts to question these leaders on their opinions as to what these sacrifices might be.

Senator Paul H. Douglas, Democrat, of Illinois, Member of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee and the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, will speak for Government. Marion Folsom, Chairman of the Committee for Economic Development, will speak for business. Arthur J. Goldberg, General Counsel to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, will speak for labor. Our alert panel of experts, which is prepared to challenge our speakers, will include Sylvia Porter, financial editor of the *New York Post*; Leo Cherne, Executive Secretary of the Research Institute of America; and Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, syndicated economic columnist for International News Service.

We'll hear first from Senator Paul H. Douglas, speaking to us from Washington.

Senator Douglas:

Our country is close to the most severe crisis in its history. Our very existence as a free people is threatened by communist aggression. We all need to rally together. We and the cause we represent are to survive.

I would suggest that we all should do the following:

First, become fully aware of the relative righteousness of our cause. We have made every effort to get along with Russia. Russia has spurned them all. We went to Korea at the request of the United Nations to prevent aggression from becoming successful. We can be proud of the fact that we are trying to prevent aggression and the police state from sweeping over the world and ourselves.

Second, realize that yielding to aggressors never brings either peace or justice. It merely strengthens the aggressor, increases his appetite, and makes him more contemptuous of those who yield. Let us stand firm, therefore, resisting the aggression of Communist China and Communist Russia and try to get the other peoples of the United Nations to do likewise.

Third, assemble as quickly as possible sufficient force back up the justice of our position, and help to build our armed forces by next fall to approximately 6 million men, so that we may have at least 60 divisions. Let us serve to the fullest degree practicable.

Fourth, be more charitable with one another. I am alarmed at the ferocity of political discussion which has developed. It divides and envenoms our people at a time when we need to be united.

Secretary Acheson has made some mistakes. So has General MacArthur. But I do not believe we should make either man a scapegoat. It is the communist aggressor, not any American, which produced this crisis. Our major error—and it has been a general one and a serious one—has been in not developing sufficient military strength back up our policies. We are getting to the point where responsible men will not accept public office because of the vicious attacks which are likely to be made upon them. Criticism should continue, but let it be based on principles, not on personalities. Let us remember that we are Americans before we are either Republicans or Democrats, and govern ourselves accordingly. Let us stress our common interests, which tend to be obscured and ignored.

Fifth, be willing to pay the necessary taxes for the greatly increased cost of these military preparations which will amount to an addition in our federal budget of at least 40 billion dollars more. If we do not tax ourselves, we will be forced to borrow from the banks. They will then create large added amounts of checkbook money, which will raise prices and hence hurt all the people living on annuities, injure institutions, salaried folk and wage earners. Let us prevent this by all being willing to pay taxes, including excess profits taxes, to the fullest extent in defense of our country. And if the Government is forced to borrow money, then let us buy bonds out of our current income, so that the Government will not be forced to ask the banks to create checkbook money and hence feed the fires of inflation.

Sixth, there are other things we can do. We should all work harder and longer in order to produce more. Let us not boost prices or wages, nor bid up prices as consumers on black markets. Let us not yield to panic and rushing out of cities. Let us not waste resources on luxuries. Let us give of our own blood for the Red Cross blood banks, assist in civil defense, and show sympathy and love for the young men who are in or who will shortly be joining our Armed Forces.

Let us put on the full armor of the Lord and show ourselves to be worthy defenders of freedom. There are stormy years ahead, but if we make these decisions and hold fast to them, our country and freedom will live.
(Applause)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Senator Paul Douglas, for those specific recommendations to each one of us.

During World War II, our country was known as the arsenal for democracy, and its production record was unexcelled, due to the magnificent coöperation of business and labor with our Government. We are fortunate to have the advice, tonight, of one of America's outstanding business leaders to state what this crisis demands of each of us in business. Mr. Marion B. Folsom, Chairman for the Committee for Economic Development, Treasurer of Eastman Kodak Company, and industry member of the National Advisory Committee of Mobilization Policy, we are very happy to welcome you to Town Meeting. Mr. Folsom. (Applause)

Mr. Folsom:

Thank you, Mr. Denny. Although I am to speak about business and its job in the emergency, I first want to point out that the main strength of America is the character of her free people. Our history reveals our love of peace and that's still our first goal, as Senator Douglas has indicated. It also reveals our willingness to do what has to be done, once we understand what is required.

We have been learning the hard way that peace does not come quick and easy, so we, the people, while still hoping for peace, are also facing up to our problems of military defense.

Such characteristics of our free people are our greatest strength. Our Number Two source of strength is American ability to produce. To realize how great this is, we need only

to recall the production job our people did in the last war. was an amazing job, when you remember that in addition the great output for war, we were also able to produce enough to maintain remarkably high living standards.

As for American business, its first responsibility, as requested by the President last Friday, is to increase production. First, we must produce as fast as possible the equipment the military forces decide they need for the present and future. Second, we must at the same time continue to produce as much civilian goods as we can, so that American living standards will suffer to the least extent possible under the circumstances.

These two objectives will be hard to reach, and they won't be reached without great effort and sacrifice by businessmen and other citizens. That they will be and can be reached—arrived at faster than they now seem possible—is indicated by the fact that in this country our output per man per hour has more than tripled in the last 50 years. At the same time, our average weekly hours of work have dropped about one-third.

There's no new, super highway to this increase in production. We must take the same hard road as in the past. First, better training and more efficient use of the skills of our people. Second, rapid improvement of production methods. Third, increase in capital, and by capital I mean plant equipment, and materials. Fourth, better management, with still more efficiency and less waste.

Unfortunately, a quick shift to war production and increase in over-all production brings us another serious problem—inflation. Here's what happens. More money will be paid out in wages for increased production, yet in spite of all we do, there will be less for civilians to buy. In other words we shall have more people with more money competing for fewer things.

How can, then, we drain off this extra purchasing power and put it to useful work?

First, business concerns, businessmen, in fact, all individuals will have to pay higher taxes. We should do this willingly and try to pay for our defense effort as we go.

Second, businessmen and all of us in this united effort should buy only what we need and not before we need it. All groups must do all they can to keep prices for products and services from going up.

Third, bankers and businessmen in general must coöperate with our Government in its efforts to cut down on purchases made on credit.

Fourth, all citizens should support efforts to eliminate unnecessary, nonmilitary spending by the Government—local, state, as well as federal.

Fifth, all of us can do ourselves and the country a great service by increasing our savings as much as we can and by supporting our Government's bond drive.

To the extent that we all join in doing these things—to that extent—will inflation be checked while we are increasing our military strength. In this emergency, therefore, American business people have at least two big jobs ahead. First, our job as business of producing more fast. Second, our job as citizens of fighting the inflationary pressures that surround us.

With our productive capacity, backed by the character and unity of American people, I feel confident in saying, as a businessman, "We've done it before. We can do it again—only better." Thank you. (*Applause*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Mr. Folsom, for those clear-cut recommendations. The productive capacity of labor, so vital in normal times, is even more essential to the national welfare in wartime.

Mr. Arthur Goldberg, as General Counsel to the Congress of Industrial Organizations, will you give us your opinion on what this crisis demands of each of us in the field of labor? Mr. Goldberg. (*Applause*)

Mr. Goldberg:

I agree both with Senator Douglas and Mr. Folsom that this crisis demands of each of us—labor and management, the private citizen, and the public servant—to give firm and loyal support to our country and to the President. It demands national unity that transcends political partisanship—which is often forgotten in Washington—and special interests.

In pledging that support for the C.I.O., which speaks for millions of organized workers, I'd like to emphasize that we speak first and foremost as American citizens deeply concerned for our country's security and welfare. Organized labor is completely dedicated to exert its full capacity and ability to help make our country strong, and to help our country use that strength to preserve the peace of the world against communist aggression.

The crisis demands that we quickly and effectively mobilize our resources. This will bring home to the Kremlin the realization that America has the power and the will to halt aggression.

Our effective mobilization, as Mr. Folsom has said, require production and more production. This is imperative if we are to meet our enlarged military requirements and essential defense needs. After all, the underlying strength of America is in our great productive power. Management must coöperate by voluntarily and speedily increasing our industrial capacity. Time is of the essence. If industry sits down and fails, or refuses to coöperate—as substantial segments did in the last World War—the Government will of necessity be required to carry out the program.

Labor will have to work longer hours. It will willingly do so. The provisions in existing laws for overtime payment—and this is often misunderstood—do not in any way preclude the working of a work week longer than the normal 40 hours. They merely provide incentive for productive overtime just as provisions in existing law for accelerated amortization of defense facilities provide incentive for industrial expansion by management.

The crisis demands the full utilization of our Nation's manpower, and this means without discrimination because of race or creed or color. This can best be done by continuing to place our reliance upon voluntary measures which proved their worth in World War II. Compulsory utilization of civilian manpower, as is provided in drafts of a national service legislation—which is too commonly proposed—is incompatible with our traditions. Free labor has always outproduced slave labor. It can and will do so again.

Effective mobilization requires that we halt inflation now. Unfortunately, the Defense Production Act, passed by Congress, does not give the President adequate tools to stop inflation. Under this Act, great increases in food prices are specifically permitted. Food costs constitute 40 per cent of the American family's average living costs. Also, Congress has not effectively re-established rent control. Rent constitutes about 13 per cent of living costs.

It is idle to talk of wage stabilization so long as the present lack of control of food prices prevails. The Congress can and should promptly enact measures which will achieve effective control of retail prices and at the same time assure farmers of fair prices for their products. In any system of wage stabilization, we must at all times remember that we are mobilizing to safeguard, and not to depress, the American standard of living. Effective price controls are a condition precedent to effective wage stabilization.

The crisis will demand sacrifices from all of us, but the sacrifices must be equally shared—and this is notably true

our tax program, which must be based on the principle of ability to pay, to prevent profiteering and extortionist profits.

Finally, ideas are weapons, too. The ideas of our free society can do much to speed the day of ultimate victory or the democratic way of life. We must throw our support behind economic progress in every section of the world, so that communism, with its destruction of human, individual values, will lose its appeal for even the most lowly-placed human being. (*Applause*)

Moderator Denny:

Thank you, Mr. Goldberg. You and Mr. Folsom and Senator Douglas have given us material for a great many Town Meetings.

QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

Mr. Denny: Now, our distinguished panel of experts, consisting of Sylvia Porter, financial editor of the *New York Post*; Leo Cherne, executive secretary for the Research Institute of America; and Merryle Stanley Rukeyser, syndicated columnist for the International News Service, are ready to put our speakers on their mettle. I see Miss Porter has a question there for Mr. Goldberg.

Miss Porter: Mr. Goldberg, you spoke about equality of sacrifice, and you also spoke about workers working overtime as one of their sacrifices. That scarcely seems enough. Would you be willing, since you mentioned that farm prices should be controlled, to make as part of labor's sacrifice the giving up of the cost-of-living clauses in the present union contracts?

Mr. Goldberg: Emphatically, no. If farm prices are controlled, and the cost-of-living is controlled, the so-called cost-of-living provision in the contract will not operate. It will be given up automatically by effective control of prices. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Goldberg. Mr. Cherne, you have a question for Senator Douglas, I believe.

Mr. Cherne: Senator, a number of months ago you led a courageous fight in Washington for a reduction in the costs of government. I'm struck by the absence in your statement of any statement calling for a reduction in the peacetime costs of government—the normal operating costs of government.

In addition, may I add to that these questions? Is there

any logic in a shortage economy, such as we face, for a continuation of the price-support program, which further inflates agricultural prices, or any logic for a continuation of a tariff program which increases the cost of foreign materials of which we ourselves are short, and for which we must pay high prices because of our own tariffs?

Mr. Denny: That is a double-barreled question for you, Senator Douglas, in Washington.

Senator Douglas: Those are very good questions, and I find myself in substantial agreement with Mr. Cherne. We should reduce nonmilitary expenditures, and I believe that we could cut from three to five billions from the nonmilitary budget but not much more than that. Included in these savings would be the reduction and virtual elimination of subsidies, not merely for agriculture, but also, I believe, they should be cut out of railroads, for air lines, and for shipping, which will have full capacity and which will not need subsidies to make up for the fact that in peacetime they are not being used to the fullest possible extent.

But this is what I want to emphasize—that I do not think that our savings can be more than three to five billion dollars which, though large, is small in comparison with the greatly added military expenditures which will be needed. If we assemble a force of six million men—which I believe is the minimum, not three and a half, as the President called for but at least six million men, and do it quickly, it's going to mean 40 billion dollars more of military expenditures. Therefore, important as the reduction of nonmilitary expenditures is, the most important thing is to raise the added money by taxation.

Mr. Denny: All right, thank you, Senator Douglas. Well, you got more than you asked for, Mr. Cherne. Mr. Rukeyser has a question now for Mr. Folsom.

Mr. Rukeyser: Mr. Folsom, in your balanced presentation you put the emphasis on increasing production, and you cite the experience in World War II, when we produced the military goods and kept up a reasonably high civilian standard of living. Isn't that somewhat of a delusive analogy? In World War II, we were in a comparatively short-term situation—five years or so—and the consumers lived in a large part on inventory, particularly in durable goods. Now we are in a period where the initiative is in Moscow. It may be much longer than a five-year period, and it may be that the inventory won't hold out and that we'll need much greater production as a means of accomplishing both ends. We are

need to grow drastically in making room for military expenditures through eliminating nonmilitary governmental expenditures wherever possible.

Mr. Folsom: Yes, I agree with you, Mr. Rukeyser, and I did not intend to carry that analogy too far, because the situation we are up against now is quite different than we had in the last war, World War II. We've got to prepare ourselves for a long-time pull here, and we should adopt policies that we can live with for some time. I think we can increase our productivity considerably, but in spite of all we can do, I think we are going to have to tighten our belts, and if it lasts as long as it probably will last, our standard of living might have to suffer.

Mr. Denny: Thank you. Now, Miss Porter has a question for Senator Douglas.

Miss Porter: Senator Douglas, you mentioned 40 billion dollars more of military expenditures, and then you say we could not boost prices or wages. Can you seriously expect that we can spend this much money and do this voluntarily? If you do not think we can do it voluntarily, do you propose mandatory price and wage controls now?

Senator Douglas: Well, the most important thing is to use as much of the 40 billions by taxes as is possible. If we can pay for the added military costs out of current income tax payers, we will remove one of the greatest sources of inflationary pressure, and the necessity for price and wage controls will be greatly reduced. Now, I am afraid that as a practical matter it won't be possible to raise 35 or 36 billion dollars from taxation, and that therefore we will be forced to borrow. I hope that this borrowing, in turn, can come from the savings of people so that we will not have added creation of monetary purchasing power.

That is the big thing to fear—that the banks will be driven under government pressure to inflate the total amount of bank credit. That will raise prices, and price and wage control will be merely alleviating that increase, not preventing it.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Senator Douglas. Now a question from Mr. Cherne for Mr. Goldberg.

Mr. Cherne: Mr. Goldberg, you say that if there is an effective method of price control, labor should still be free to secure wage increases up to whatever the cost-of-living increase incurs. Is it not true that, if we are to meet the expense of this extraordinary program, we all must, including labor, take a sharp cut in our standard of living?

Mr. Goldberg: I think the answer to that is this. Labor is willing to coöperate, as Senator Douglas has indicated, voluntarily saving. We need a pool, after the emergency is over, in order to see to it that our economy will operate. One of the ways to acquire that pool is to provide a reservoir of savings on the part of labor so that labor can go out and buy when we need purchasing power after the emergency is over.

I don't think we want to depress living standards. We want labor to enjoy a good living standard in America, but that is precisely what we are fighting and striving to maintain.

Mr. Denny: Thank you, Mr. Goldberg. I wish we had more time. We will have, beginning January 2, when we go to 10 minutes, but tonight I want to thank Senator Douglas, Maria Folsom, Mr. Goldberg, Sylvia Porter, Leo Cherne, and Merry Stanley Rukeyser for their excellent participation in this discussion.

As we prepare to spend some 40 billions of dollars for national defense, as Senator Douglas has suggested, for the defense of our freedom, we will consider next week the highly controversial question, "Can Air Power Defeat Mass Mobilization Power?" Our speakers will be two outstanding experts, Major Alexander de Seversky, author of *Victory Through Air Power*, and *Air Power, Key to Survival*, and Marshall Andrew, journalist, author of *Disaster Through Air Power*.

The following week, when Town Meeting expands to 15 minutes, our subject will be "Do We Need the Old-Time Religion?" Our speakers will be the celebrated evangelist Billy Graham, and the eminent New York clergyman, I. Ralph Sockman, of Christ Church, Methodist, in New York.

Listen next week and every week for the sound of the Crier's Bell. (*Applause*)

"BEHIND THE CRIER'S BELL"

On this page every week we shall take you "behind the scenes" of America's Town Meeting. We will welcome your questions about the program and your suggestions on what phases interest you most.

Supposing you were in charge of putting on "Town Meeting" each week — how would you go about it? What makes us plan programs as we do? Why do we usually have two speakers, but sometimes three? Why do we generally have questions from the studio audience, but occasionally invite special interrogators?

These variations, which at first may seem capricious, show how our flexible format is adaptable to the requirements of specific subjects.

When this week's program was first being considered, we were aware that a national emergency was about to be proclaimed. But even if it were not, it was evident that the present crisis would demand a great deal of us individually on the home front. On that basis, we went ahead with our arrangements, but temporarily substituted the words "this crisis" for "the national emergency" in the title in the event that the expected proclamation would not materialize.

The next step was deciding what aspects of domestic mobilization were of primary importance and how they could best be brought out during the discussion. Research indicated that the two groups which would be affected most by emergency legislation were business and labor. Therefore, a prominent representative of each would certainly be necessary participants. But even they alone could not present the whole picture. Since

all emergency powers and proposed legislation would be in the hands of Government, a spokesman familiar with plans for the emergency would round out the program, broaden its scope, and increase its value to the audience.

Because this program was built on very short notice, we realized that people who were particularly interested might not have time to get tickets to attend the broadcast. Also, some of those who had requested tickets in advance might be prepared to hear the originally scheduled program which had been cancelled. Therefore, to insure a question period that would clarify the issues and highlight points of agreement and disagreement, three interrogators were invited to question the principals. Since the enthusiastic letters you wrote after our last two programs indicated that the inclusion of interrogators was successful, it was felt they would be effective again this week. Just as the speakers had been invited because they represented important points of view, the interrogators were selected on the same basis.

Although there was not sufficient time to include questions from the studio audience while we were on the air, the participants were kind enough to remain after the broadcast to answer questions and bring the audience into the discussion.

We hope you found this week's "Town Meeting" constructive and that you felt the modified format accomplished its purpose of fitting the presentation to the subject.

"THE LISTENER TALKS BACK"

on

"How Should the Free Nations Deal With Present Aggression?"

Program of December 12, 1950

Speakers:

SENATOR WAYNE MORSE

THE HON. L. B. PEARSON

★
Each week we print as many significant comments on the preceding Tuesday's broadcast as space allows. You are invited to send in your opinions, pro and con. The letters should be mailed to Department 2, Town Hall, New York 18, N.Y., not later than Thursday following the program. It is understood that we may publish any letters or comments received.

THREE VIEWS

In discussing the Korean problem, we are confronted with three different points of view: the military, the democratic, and the practical. The first concerns us only on the supposition of an all-out war between ourselves and Communist Asia . . . If China were to attack us, we do not need Korea, Formosa, Indo-China, the Philippines, or Japan for our defense. Adequate defense measures in Alaska and (Pacific) islands would be sufficient. . . .

Secondly, an ideal democratic government . . . cannot be forced upon any country. It can be established . . . (but can be) maintained only by the will of the people concerned. The ideal government we projected for Korea and were attempting to realize in South Korea would, I have no doubt, be best for the Koreans themselves in the long run. But its attainment must be their problem . . . Justified as we have been on moral grounds in our effort to defeat the North Korean invaders, we yet appear as a foreign nation and must bear the onus that goes with the term "foreign interference."

The practical point of view involves what must be a basic democratic principle: that the

masses in any nation have the right to determine their form of government no matter if it be a form that we very properly regard as undemocratic. If in the present emergency a compromise can be arranged restoring South Korea to a parliamentary status, well and good; but if not, I think we should withdraw and leave the Koreans to learn democracy the hard way.
—JOHN R. SWANTON, Newton, Mass.

13 POINTS

Our Government should:

1. Broadcast a weekly report to the American people. Too many still do not realize the seriousness of our situation.
2. Stop playing politics, apologizing for our capitalist system and trying to replace it with other systems.
3. Put our country on a war footing immediately.
4. Establish a forceful, consistent, unified policy to replace our day-to-day diplomacy.
5. Brand Russia the aggressor, list her crimes against humanity (and) expel her from the United Nations.
6. Refuse to seat Red China (in the UN).
7. Warn Russia that if she per

its aggression to continue, we will take whatever steps we consider necessary — against the Kremlin.

8. Save the atom bombs for Russia.

9. Pull our troops out of Korea necessary to save them.

10. Arm Chiang Kai-shek (and help him) fight Communist China.

11. Arm, encourage, and train anti-Communist guerrillas all around the world so that free men everywhere may fight together.

12. Make it clear to the countries of Europe that they must help themselves.

13. But—let the American people know what they face so an informed, aroused public can act.—
REGINIA CONLEY, Mohawk, Oregon.

ALL OR NOTHING

First and foremost, we must take a firm, decisive stand. The Government should state in definite terms what it intends to do . . . We must recognize with reservations whatever that Communism is the chief menace of the world. . . . Another fact to recognize is that while Communism anywhere is a menace, the headquarters of Communism is in Moscow. Proceeding on these facts, we should inform the world of our intentions and let it be known that we welcome any allies who are willing to put everything they have into the conflict. We must inform them that we want no half-measures. This is a battle for survival, and it is all or nothing.

Now to get down to specifics: Get every soldier, airman, marine out of Korea. Put this country on a total mobilization basis. Build up in every way the power of our armed services. Probably the Chinese and North Koreans will overrun Korea, but at present, can do nothing

about that. All we can do is become as strong as possible and then return the attack. After we have defeated the North Koreans and Chinese (and I know we can if we put our energies into it), we can begin to talk. However, now is the time for action, not words. Let us show the world that we have not lost our courage nor our will to fight any threat to freedom and peace.—MARION E. HOYT, Hartford, Connecticut.

RECOGNITION OF CHINA

Far Eastern questions should be settled on their own merits by the UN and not unilaterally by us. We can make an important contribution to world peace by submitting to world public opinion. I feel our moral position is weak. I think Communist China should be recognized and we should get out of Formosa.—MRS. CHARLES F. BROOKS, Milton, Massachusetts.

If Red China (had) shown that she was worthy of belonging to the United Nations, whose chief purpose for existence is to stop aggression and preserve peace in the world, she would have been taken in as a member. However, she is an aggressor and right now is even fighting the very United Nations forces which are trying to stop aggression in Korea. If we take Red China in as a member of the UN, it (would seem that) the UN has failed in its reason for existence. MRS. ARNOLD PAWLOSKI, Niles, Mich.

IN APPRECIATION

I am writing this in appreciation of the series you have begun on the current crisis. It is apparent that while Senator Morse and Mr. Pearson did not concur on all points, each did offer constructive ideas and analyses; and they approached today's problems with an intelligent attitude of realism. More people like them are greatly needed. Thank you again.—MARY E. CULL, Philadelphia, Pa.

NATIONALISM AND IMPERIALISM

In my opinion the present crisis cannot be isolated from a condition that is general throughout the Far East, namely the upsurge of nationalism. It seems to me that the leaders of the western nations are continually confusing this inevitable development with Soviet imperialism, and thereby giving Russia one opportunity after another to create dissension and strife. Critics of this attitude will no doubt say that if the western powers withdraw, the agent of the Soviet will take over; but the Kremlin can no more impose its will on the peoples of Asia than can the democratic nations, and if the people of the countries concerned suffer for a while they will not undergo anything worse than the Korean people with their thousands of dead, ruined cities and countryside, starvation and disease. I would suggest that Hong Kong be given to China, Indo-China be proclaimed a sovereign state, Malaya be made a Dominion (if the people so choose), and Formosa be returned to China.—ROBERT EARL, Stella, Ont., Canada.

CALL FOR A VOTE

Has it ever occurred to our diplomats to call an armistice in Korea for the purpose of conducting a plebiscite of not only the South or the North but of the entire country, and let the people of Korea decide what they want?

The Communists could accept or reject our proposal. If they refused, we would have gained victory by showing not only the people of the world, but more especially the peoples of China and Russia, who the aggressors really are. On the other hand, if they accepted our proposal there could obviously be one of two outcomes: either the people of Korea would choose our free government or Communism. If they chose Communism, we would be bound, as all other free countries would be, to support them, cost what it may. On the other hand, if they chose Communism, then in the name of Heaven let's get out of Korea and get our boys home where they belong.—ANDREW J. SOVET, E. Greenwich, R. Is.

COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

We all know we can't arbitrate with Communist China on anything, for they are under the control of Russia and have already said what they will insist upon for terms. We can't appease them and throw overboard our Chinese friends, who are Nationalists. Why can't we . . . Chiang Kai-shek land in South China and start a counter-offensive? It would take the pressure off Korea. . . (At home) we must have controls on prices and wages now. . . . Above all we must be strong in armament, and only then will Russia understand our plea for peace. — EVERETT H. MODER, West Medway, Oregon.

FOLLOW-UP

In the December 12 *Bulletin*, we told you a bit about "Town Meeting's" timeliness and our efforts to present both subjects and speakers in the news. Last week the Honorable Lester B. Pearson, Canada's Minister for External Affairs, discussed "How Should the Free Nations Deal With Present Aggression?" Several days later we were pleased to learn that Mr. Pearson had been appointed by the President of the United Nations General Assembly to serve on a 3-man committee to try to arrange terms for a cease-fire in Korea.